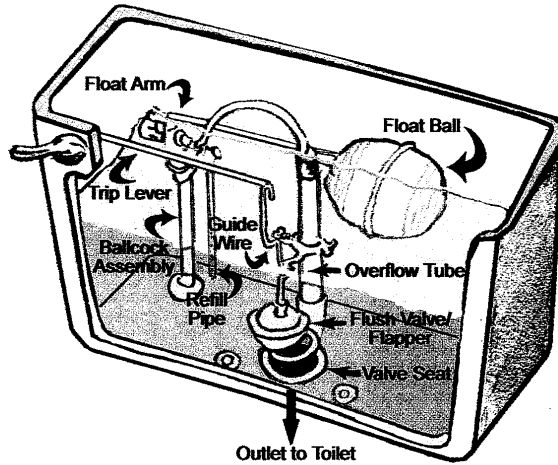




Stop Leaks • Save Water



Toilet Leaks

That trickling sound that you hear at night could be wasting 50 - 100 gallons of water per day. Toilets can leak silently, too. You'll stop the sound and see savings in your water bills if you repair your leaky toilet. Here's how to check for leaks.

Step-by-step directions

- Crush a dye tablet in its envelope and carefully empty the contents into the center of the toilet tank and allow it to dissolve. If you don't have a dye tablet, use a few drops of food coloring OR a couple of table-spoons of instant coffee, OR 2 tablespoons of grape or cherry powdered fruit drink mix.
- Wait 8-10 minutes.
- If your toilet bowl shows signs of dye, you have a leak. If no dye appears, you probably don't have a leak in your tank.

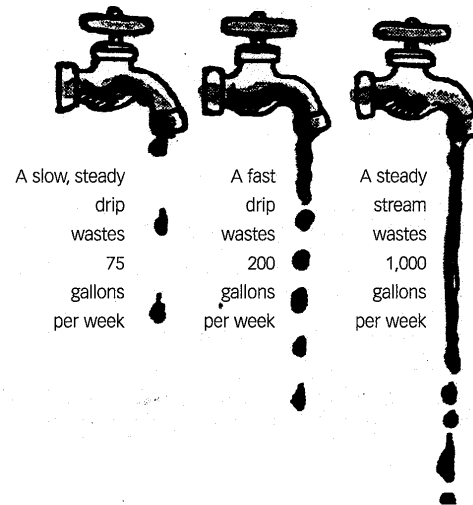
If the results of the dye test show that you have a leak, it could mean that your toilet has a damaged flapper valve. Your local hardware store, home center or a licensed plumber can give you advice on proper replacement.

Leaking Faucets

Dripping, trickling or oozing faucets can waste several hundred gallons of water a week, depending on the size of the drip. Worn-out washers are the main cause of these leaks. Washers are typically located under the faucet handle. They are very inexpensive to replace.

Leaks waste a lot of water!

A single dripping faucet can waste 75-100 gallons of water per week, depending on the rate of flow.



Look for Hidden Leaks Throughout Your Home

A leaky faucet is pretty obvious. But hidden leaks in the toilet, under the sink, or behind a washing machine can waste a lot of water. They could be damaging to your floor or ceiling, too.

Get to Know Your Water Meter

Unusually high water bills could be a sign of leaky fixtures or pipes. Or, you could just be using more water than you expected.

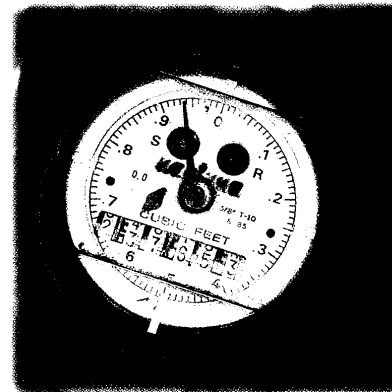
Your water meter is probably located in the corner of your basement or somewhere outside your house. Meters measure water in cubic feet or in gallons. This should be indicated on the meter. (Hint: 1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons.)

Water meters have spinning dials or numbers to record usage. When water is not being used, the dials or numbers on the meter should not move or change.

One way to find out if you have a hidden leak is to take a reading of your water meter. Wait an hour, making sure no one uses any water in your home. Check it again. If the reading has changed, you have at least one leak. Investigate!

Step-by-step directions

- Find your water meter.
- Turn off the water supply to every water-using item inside and outside your home or building, including faucets, toilets, showers, dishwashers, clothes washers and sprinklers.
- Take a reading of your water meter.
- Be sure not to use any water in your home or building for at least an hour.
- Take a second reading of your water meter.
- If your second reading is higher than your first, you probably have a leak.
- If you suspect a certain fixture, such as a toilet, is the source, turn off the water supply to that fixture only and take a meter reading.
- Check the meter again after an hour. The reading should be the same.



For More Information

If you'd like to learn more about how to save water in your home, garden, or business,

- **Call**– The MWRA Water Conservation Hotline: 617- 242-SAVE (617-242-7283)
- **Visit our website**– WWW.MWRA.COM.
- **Write to us**– Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Community Support Program, Charlestown Navy Yard, 100 First Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02129

